

**REVISED**  
**MONTANA PUBLIC SERVICE COMMISSION**  
**UTILITY DIVISION**  
**AGENDA NO. 05-01-25**

Date Published: January 20, 2005  
For Work Week Commencing: January 24, 2005  
Commission Meeting: January 25, 2005, 9:00 a.m.

General Introduction This agenda is the Commission's Utility Division agenda for the work week designated. In the later part of each week (generally, Thursday by 2:00 p.m.) prior to the work week to which an agenda pertains, the agenda is posted on the public information bulletin board at the Commission offices, deposited in the mail directed to all persons who have properly requested notice by mail, emailed to all persons who have properly requested notice by email, and posted to the Public Service Commission's worldwide web site located at <http://www.psc.state.mt.us>.

Place of Meetings All meetings are held at the Commission offices, 1701 Prospect Avenue, Helena, Montana, unless otherwise noted.

Inquiries General inquiries concerning this Utility Division agenda and subscribing to notice by mail may be made to Kate Whitney at (406) 444-3056. She may refer inquiries to another person within the agency.

Accommodation for Persons with Disabilities Anyone needing an accommodation for physical, hearing, or sight impairment in order to attend a scheduled meeting should contact the Commission secretary at (406) 444-6199 sufficiently prior to the meeting to allow accommodations to be made.

**9:00 a.m. Weekly Scheduling** (Commission Conference Room)

**9:30 a.m. Business** (Bollinger Room)

**Public Comments**

**Action Items** All items identified below are for action at the Commission business meeting.

1. Qwest Corporation N2005.1.4 (Gary)

On January 6, 2005 Qwest filed for Commission approval a Master Service Agreement (MSA) between Qwest and Allstate Insurance Company. This contract is the result of a request from Allstate for Qwest to provide a bid for Business Access Lines for the 14 state Qwest territory. Allstate also received a competitive offer for these services from another telecommunications company. In addition to the MSA, Qwest also filed cost support information. Qwest is making this filing for approval under the Commission's April 6, 2004

Notice of Commission Action in PSC Docket No. N2003.10.149 and Qwest's Exchange and Network Service Tariff Section 2.18.

2. SPRINT COMMUNICATIONS COMPANY L. P. MONTANA N2005.1.5  
(Leroy)

On January 11, 2005, Sprint filed its 243<sup>rd</sup> Revised Page 1, to introduce Sprint Business Simple Rate and make miscellaneous text changes. Sprint is requesting a January 19, 2005 effective date. Staff recommends approval.

3. BLACK HILLS POWER D2004.12.201 (Eric)

On December 29, 2004, BHP filed a Quarterly Fuel Rate Rider application. A Notice of Opportunity for Public Hearing was issued on January 5, 2005. Requests for hearing were due by January 24, 2004. No requests have been received. This application will decrease revenues by \$5,395 over the base cost of fuel approved in Docket No. 83.4.25. A default order has been drafted.

**Work Sessions** All items identified below are for Commission discussion or action on the day designated.

1. **1/24/05 9:30 a.m.** - Legislative – Discuss bills and other matters related to 2005 legislative session (Commission Conference Room). (1/24/05)
2. D2003.7.86 and D2004.6.96 – NorthWestern Energy – Qualifying Facility (QF) Tariffs – Discuss pending matters and get any necessary direction. (1/25/05)
3. D2004.4.50 – Montana-Dakota Utilities (MDU) – Application to Increase Natural Gas Rates – Discuss settlement between MDU and Montana Consumer Counsel. (1/25/05)
4. Comments by the Organization of MISO States (Montana's OMS Board member is Chairman Jergeson) to the FERC concerning state access to confidential data maintained by the MISO – Obtain Commission approval to support the comments as drafted or revised. (1/25/05)
5. NorthWestern Energy Bankruptcy – Placeholder to report on and get direction on any matter related to the bankruptcy. (1/25/05)

6. Personnel – Act on two staff requests to extend the time to use their excess annual leave. (1/25/05)
7. PSC Process – Placeholder - Continue the discussion of PSC process, answer questions, etc. (1/25/05)
8. Legislative – Discuss bills and other matters related to 2005 legislative session. (1/25/05)
9. **1/26/05 9:30 a.m.** – Legislative – Discuss bills and other matters related to 2005 legislative session (Commission Conference Room). (1/26/05)
10. **1/27/05 9:30 a.m.** – Legislative – Discuss bills and other matters related to 2005 legislative session (Commission Conference Room). (1/27/05)
11. **1/27/05 2:00 p.m.** – Northwestern Energy Bankruptcy – Review the history, impact and consequences of the NorthWestern Energy bankruptcy, the PSC and MCC role in the bankruptcy, and other matters related to the bankruptcy (Commission Conference Room). (1/27/05)
12. **1/28/05 9:30 a.m.** – Legislative – Discuss bills and other matters related to 2005 legislative session (Commission Conference Room). (1/28/05)

### **Other Meetings**

**1/27/05 1:00 p.m. – Informational meeting with Qwest CEO Dick Nortbaert (Commission Conference Room)**

Weekly Scheduling – Will be held at 9:00 a.m. on the day of the Commission Meeting

**Notice Items** All items identified below are noticed for public participation purposes. Unless otherwise stated in the text of the notice, the items will be action items on the next following agenda or a subsequent agenda and participation may be had by submitting written comments to the Public Service Commission, 1701 Prospect

Avenue, P.O. Box 202601, Helena, Montana, 59620-2601, within 5 calendar days following publication of this agenda. Public comments on a noticed matter may also be submitted within the required time through the PSC's web-based comment form at <http://psc.mt.gov/Consumers/comments>. Comments should reference the docket number of the matter.

**Protective Orders – Notice Items** The Commission has received the following requests for protective order pursuant to ARM 38.2.5007. The Commission will rule on the requests no earlier than 10 days after the publication date of this agenda. Comments on the requests may be submitted at any time prior to ruling. Any person interested in seeking a copy of a protective order request should contact the Commission at 406-444-6199.

**Protective Orders – Information Items** The Commission has issued the following protective orders. These orders may be challenged pursuant to ARM 38.2.5008.

**Information Items** All items identified below are for information only.

**New Filings Received in Past Week**

N2005.1.7 – Powerex – Application for License to Supply Electricity to Industrial Customers in Montana

D2004.7.113 – Northwestern Energy – February 1, 2005 Monthly Natural Gas Cost Rate Adjustment

D2004.7.114 – NorthWestern Energy – February 1, 2005 Monthly Electric Default Supply Cost Rate Adjustment

D2004.8.131 – Energy West – Monthly Gas Cost Tracking Application for 2/1/05